

NINETY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 83

Introduced by Dw. Pedersen, 39; Thompson, 14; Suttle, 10

WHEREAS, 1999 marks the centennial celebration of the creation of America's Juvenile Courts and such a milestone provides a unique opportunity for communities throughout the United States to acknowledge the judicial system that allowed individuals to take leadership roles, as people did one hundred years ago, identifying the needs of children and shaping sound public policy regarding justice for children; and

WHEREAS, in 1899 the Juvenile Court of Cook County was established in Chicago through the combined efforts of a number of community leaders and the Chicago Bar Association. Together these individuals crafted and assured passage of Illinois legislation to create a separate court for children and ensure that children were removed from adult jails and poorhouses. This children's court was founded in recognition that children and adolescents are developmentally different from adults and that these differences make youth both less culpable and more amenable to intervention and treatment; and

WHEREAS, the goal of juvenile courts from their inception has been the recovery and rehabilitation of children rather than the punishment and incapacitation of children; and

WHEREAS, the Juvenile Courts of Nebraska are committed to

the goals and messages of the founders of juvenile courts, have planned a comprehensive program to share the history of the early juvenile courts, and are committed to improve the current juvenile court system and the lives of our children, to raise public awareness and education, important social and legal issues affecting children and families, and to build new partnerships with other professions and agencies that work with children and families throughout Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, we face a new century with an opportunity to enhance justice for children and to reform how the juvenile courts are viewed, supported, and utilized and how the juvenile courts can strengthen families and support the development of healthy children and effective communities; and

WHEREAS, on July 21, 1999, the Honorable Gerald E. Rouse, a county court judge of the 5th Nebraska County Court District, will take office as President of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. The council was founded in 1937 and is the oldest and one of the largest judicial organizations in the United States. The purposes of the council include training and technical expertise for judges, developing best practices for courts in dealing with neglected and dependent children and their families and dealing with all functions of the family including domestic relations, domestic violence, adoptions, and guardianships. The council has a research division, the National Center for Juvenile Justice located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which is responsible for keeping national statistics on delinquency and writing publications for the various agencies and for Congress.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE

NINETY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. The Legislature recognizes and commends the role of the juvenile courts in Nebraska and throughout the United States.

2. The legislature congratulates Judge Rouse for his election as President of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges.

3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to Judge Rouse.

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PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATURE

I, Patrick J. O'Donnell, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Legislative Resolution 83, which was passed by the Legislature of Nebraska in the Ninety-sixth Legislature, First Session, on the XXXX(words)XXXX day of April 1999.

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CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE